

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 OES-07 ERDA-05 EB-07
AID-05 OMB-01 /092 W
-----160754Z 088023 /17

P R 151512Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0878
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, FR, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH DEFENSE MINISTER SAID TO REJECT FRENCH-
SWEDISH WEAPONS RESEARCH

1. CONSERVATIVE SVENSKA DAGBLADET REPORTED JUNE 15 THAT SWEDISH
DEFENSE MINISTER ERIC KRONMARK, DURING A RECENT VISIT TO PARIS
TO ATTEND THE AIR SHOW AT LE BOURGET, HAD REJECTED A FRENCH PRO-
POSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROJECT DEVELOPING AMONG A NUMBER OF
WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES TO ESTABLISH A WEAPONS INDUSTRY WHICH
WOULD BE COMPETITIVE TO THAT OF THE UNITED STATES. KRONMARK
REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT SUCH COLLABORATION "WOULD CONFLICT
WITH OUR POLICY OF NEUTRALITY AND INVOLVE US IN THE POLITICS
OF THE NATO COUNTRIES." KRONMARK SAID THAT SWEDISH PARTICIPATION
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WAS DESIRED BY THE FRENCH BECAUSE OF SWEDEN'S HIGHLY-DEVELOPED
WEAPON TECHNOLOGY. THE PAPER SAID THAT "OTHER OBSERVERS"
MAINTAIN THAT FRANCE WOULD STRENGTHEN ITS OWN POSITION
VIS-A-VIS NATO IF IT COULD CONVINCE A NEUTRAL STATE
TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND INDUSTRIAL
COOPERATION.

2. DURING HIS VISIT TO FRANCE, KRONMARK MET WITH DEFENSE MINISTER YVON BOURGES. KRONMARK TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE GOS MIGHT WELL INCREASE ITS BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH FRANCE AS REGARDS THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND PURCHASE OF ARMS. HE NOTED SWEDEN IS IN THE MARKET FOR HEAVY ANTI-TANK MISSILES AND THAT FRANCE PRODUCES EXCELLENT MISSILES, "BUT VERY EXPENSIVE COMPARED TO WHAT WE CAN FIND IN THE US."

3. THE PAPER NOTED THAT SUPREME COMMANDER GENERAL STIG SYNNEGREN AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL NILS SKOLD HAVE ALSO BEEN IN PARIS THIS WEEK, PRIMARILY FOR THE AIR SHOW, BUT ALSO TO VISIT A LARGE EXHIBITION OF ARMY MATERIAL IN SATORY OUTSIDE VERSAILLES.

4. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY WILL BE MAKING INQUIRIES REGARDING THE FRENCH PROPOSAL DIRECTLY WITH SWEDISH MILITARY CONTACTS. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSAL OTHER THAN TODAY'S PRESS ARTICLE. IF THE LATTER IS ACCURATE, WE ARE NOT SURPRISED BY KRONMARK'S APPARENTLY FORTHRIGHT REJECTION OF SWEDISH PARTICIPATION. ANY LIGHT THE DEPARTMENT OR OTHER ADDRESSEES MIGHT SHED ON THE MATTER WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

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